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7 September 1967

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: New York Times Article on "Unusual" Soviet Space Launches

1. The Clark article is essentially correct in the details of the "unusual" sequence of Soviet space launches; however, there was an additional launch on 22 March 1967 which failed to reach orbit, making a total of eight flight tests to date.

2. The TIMES article implies that the Soviets are testing a weapon system which will be stored in space and deorbited on command in the event of war. We believe that they are testing concepts related to a weapon system that would be stored on the ground until the order to attack is given, and would be brought down on target during the initial orbit. The launch vehicle as presently configured does not have sufficient energy to attack the United States on the initial orbit, therefore, we believe modifications requiring additional flight testing will be necessary.

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